United Nations S/2006/313

Security Council

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## Letter dated 22 May 2006 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to draw your attention to resolution 1676 (2006) concerning Somalia, adopted by the Security Council on 10 May 2006. In paragraph 3 of that resolution, the Council requested me, in consultation with the Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) on the situation in Somalia, to re-establish within thirty days from the date of the adoption of resolution 1676 (2006), and for a period of six months, the Monitoring Group referred to in paragraph 3 of resolution 1558 (2004), with the mandate to carry out the tasks set forth in paragraphs 3 (a) to 3 (i) of resolution 1676 (2006).

I should like to inform you, therefore, that, following consultations with the Committee, I have appointed the following experts:

Bruno Schiemsky (Belgium)
Melvin E. Holt, Jr. (United States of America)
Harjit Singh Kelley (Kenya)
Joel Salek (Colombia)

I have also appointed Mr. Bruno Schiemsky Chairman of the Monitoring Group.

I should be grateful if you would bring this information to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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United Nations A/ES-10/332–S/2006/314

General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
**Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory**

Security Council
Sixty-first year

## Identical letters dated 22 May 2006 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Israel, the occupying Power, continues to commit acts of the State terrorism and systematic human rights violations against the Palestinian people under its occupation. In waging this vicious military campaign, the Israeli occupying forces continue to kill and wound civilians, destroy properties and impose and inflict collective punishments on the Palestinian people on a daily basis. In the past couple of days alone, Israeli occupying forces killed five Palestinians, including three women and a 4-year-old child.

The latest Israeli crime occurred yesterday, Sunday, 21 May 2006 in the Balata refugee camp in the West Bank. Israeli occupying forces shot and killed a 48-year-old Palestinian woman as she left her home to see what route her husband should take to avoid the occupying forces. Moreover, the day before, Israeli occupying forces committed yet another extrajudicial execution, killing Mohammed Sha'aban Al-Dahdouh. Two missiles were fired by an Israeli warplane, hitting the vehicle in which Al-Dahdouh was travelling. The attack also killed three innocent bystanders — a baby, his mother and his grandmother — who were near the vehicle at the time. In addition, another woman and a child were wounded.

The continuation of aggression committed by the Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian people should be vigorously condemned by the international community. The current situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, can only continue to deteriorate as long as Israel, the occupying Power, continues to believe that it can act against the Palestinian people under its occupation with impunity. In this regard, we urge the international community to take the necessary measures to compel Israel to halt its military campaign and abide by international law and international humanitarian law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 241 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since

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28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 15 May 2006 (A/ES-10/331-S/2006/297), constitute a basic record of the crimes committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Accordingly, in follow-up to the above-mentioned letters, it is my profound regret to inform you that, since our last letter to you, at least eight more Palestinians have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces (including four more not included in our last letter), raising the total number of martyrs killed since September 2000 to 3,862. (The names of the martyrs that have been identified are listed in the annex to the present letter.)

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

## Annex to the identical letters dated 22 May 2006 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

## Names of martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem*

**(Saturday, 6 May, to Sunday, 21 May 2006)**

**Saturday, 6 May 2006**

Moussa Saleem Al-Sawarkeh

**Sunday, 7 May 2006**

Hussein Al-Shaf'ei

**Friday, 12 May 2006**

1. Omar Rasheed Abu Kamel
2. Ra'ed Tobaileh

**Wednesday, 17 May 2006**

1. Othman Sadaqa
2. Mustafa Hussein Abdel-Ghani
3. Mosharrif Tawfiq Al-Mubaslat

**Saturday, 20 May 2006**

1. Mohamed Shaaban Al-Dahdouh
2. Naima Mohamed Amn
3. Hanan Mohamed Amn
4. Mohamed Amn (5 years old)

**Sunday, 21 May 2006**

Aisha Faris Abu Musallam

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* The total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 3,862.

United Nations S/2006/315

Security Council

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# Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus

## I. Introduction

1. The present report on the United Nations operation in Cyprus covers developments from 25 November 2005 to 17 May 2006 and brings up to date the record of activities carried out by the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) pursuant to Security Council resolution 186 (1964) and subsequent Council resolutions, most recently resolution 1642 (2005).

2. On 31 December 2005, Zbigniew Wlosowicz relinquished his post and on 1 January 2006, Michael Møller succeeded him as my Special Representative and Chief of Mission. The Force Commander, Major General Hebert Figoli (Uruguay), ended his tour of duty on 5 January 2006, and was succeeded by Major General Rafael Barni (Argentina) on 6 March 2006. As at 15 May, the strength of the military component stood at 859, all ranks, and the strength of the police component stood at 69 (see annex).

## II. Mission of good offices and other developments

3. Over the past six months, both the Greek Cypriot leader and the Turkish Cypriot leader renewed their calls for a resumption of my mission of good offices. While there were signals of some willingness to begin to re-engage, there have been no tangible indicators of an evolution in the respective positions.

4. On 28 February, I met the Greek Cypriot leader, Tassos Papadopoulos, in Paris. I conveyed my assessment that the situation was not yet ripe for the resumption of full-fledged political talks and expressed my concern that the gap between words and deeds was still too wide. I encouraged him to do what he could to narrow those gaps. In March, I conveyed to the Turkish Cypriot leader, Mehmet Ali Talat, my readiness to meet with him at a mutually convenient time following his full recovery from a recent medical intervention.

5. In the course of the reporting period, I also had the opportunity to meet with both Greek and Turkish officials. Late in March, I met with the Greek Foreign Minister to discuss the situation in Cyprus and related issues. In January and March respectively, I met the Turkish Prime Minister and Foreign Minister. The object of the discussions was the action plan on lifting of restrictions in Cyprus put forward

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by the Turkish Foreign Minister, Abdullah Gül, on 20 January 2006 (see A/60/657-S/2006/48, annex). In that connection, Nicosia indicated on 31 January that it was not in a position to accept Ankara's proposals (see A/60/671-S/2006/82). Athens held a similar view. I have since held extensive consultations on the proposals.

6. My new Special Representative took up his duties early in January and started to explore options to encourage progress on the ground and possibilities for a resumption of contacts between the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots, which had been suspended for over two years. In February, both agreed to a proposal to establish a mechanism for them to engage on issues of common concern through bicommunal discussions at the technical level. My Special Representative has since been involved in efforts aimed at reaching an agreement on the modalities for such discussions. In order to gauge the pulse of the communities, and build a broad base of support for progress toward the reunification of Cyprus, my Special Representative has also been in contact with wide sectors of civil society and with the wider diplomatic community on the island.

7. The bicommunal discussions at the technical level are not intended to be a substitute for the negotiating process towards a comprehensive settlement in the framework of my mission of good offices, but a step aimed at building trust and understanding, paving the way for the resumption of full-scale negotiations leading to a comprehensive settlement. For the time being, both leaders have agreed in principle to my proposal that they meet on the occasion of the installation of the new third member of the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus, anticipated for June 2006.

## III. Activities of the force

### A. Prevention of a recurrence of fighting and maintenance of the military status quo

8. The military and security situation along the ceasefire lines remained generally stable. Overall, the opposing forces showed cooperation and exercised restraint. The number of incidents during the reporting period increased, although most were minor in nature. The Force recorded 468 incidents from November to May as compared to 397 for the same period in 2005. Minor incidents included overmanning, enhancements to military positions, stone-throwing, weapon-pointing and incursions into the buffer zone. Incidents of a more significant nature included cocking and pointing of weapons and hunting incidents. The noted increase may be attributed in part to the UNFICYP mobile concept of operations implemented since 2004, which brings the United Nations Force into more direct contact with the National Guard and the Turkish Forces/Turkish Cypriot Security Forces and facilitates detection of incidents.

9. A confrontation over the opening of a new crossing point at Ledra Street in old Nicosia substantially heightened tensions in the early weeks of the reporting period. Both the Turkish Cypriots and the Greek Cypriots had agreed to open a new crossing point at Ledra Street with UNFICYP facilitation. However, late in November, the Turkish Cypriots decided unilaterally to construct a footbridge over a Turkish Forces patrol track close to the northern edge of the buffer zone. The south was unwilling to open its side of the crossing unless the bridge was removed while

the north was unwilling to open its side without the bridge. The south also withdrew its consent for the United Nations to carry out the necessary repair work on the street inside the buffer zone which, for safety reasons, must precede any opening. Tensions subsided in January but neither side has been willing to compromise and Ledra Street remains closed. Both have challenged UNFICYP demarcation of the buffer zone in the area, compounding the difficulties of reaching a solution.

10. Disputes over demarcation of ceasefire lines and the authority of UNFICYP in the buffer zone increased. This is a long-standing problem, dating back to the failure of the opposing forces to agree on the ceasefire lines in the 1970s. Faced repeatedly with the practical problem of determining violations, in 1989 UNFICYP developed an aide-memoire on the supervision of the ceasefire in Cyprus, which remains the authoritative functional guide for UNFICYP. It was at the time presented to, though not accepted by, both sides. As part of an initiative to ensure that both sides honour UNFICYP authority in the buffer zone and decrease incidents and violations of the status quo, UNFICYP has invited them to engage in consultations to review the aide-memoire and the overall management of the buffer zone.

11. Over the past three months two violations of the status quo raised tensions in and along the buffer zone. The National Guard replaced and substantially improved an observation post in the vicinity of Dherinia by erecting a significantly larger structure. UNFICYP objected to the construction and repeatedly asked the National Guard to dismantle it and return the position to the status quo ante. At the time of writing, the National Guard had unmanned the position but the structure remained in place. The Turkish Forces initially did not react but then chose to construct a new observation post in the same vicinity. It is also currently unmanned. Each side cited previous infractions by the other to justify its own actions. Unless dismantled, both structures will be recorded as permanent violations. In general, both sides continued to react to provocative actions of the other rather than exercise restraint in order to defuse a situation.

12. The lifting of the restrictions on freedom of movement of UNFICYP personnel in the north referred to in my report of May 2005 (S/2005/353, para. 15) made possible restoration of operations in areas previously restricted. However, in January, new restrictions were placed on UNFICYP by the Turkish Forces on buffer zone crossing points in sector 4 to the east of Nicosia. UNFICYP police also faced movement restrictions in the Karpas area affecting operations of the small UNFICYP police team based in Leonarisso; meanwhile, a solution was found enabling UNFICYP police to operate effectively in the area.

13. Turkish Forces continued to man the checkpoint at the Louroujina pocket despite repeated protests by UNFICYP. The United Nations continues to hold the Government of Turkey responsible for the status quo in Varosha. The Turkish Forces/Turkish Cypriot security forces remain in violation of the military status quo in Strovilia. Since March 2006, they have been manning the position with two soldiers whereas previously one soldier occupied the post. UNFICYP also noted an increase in the frequency of visits by senior officers to the position over the same period.

14. Both forces continue to perceive one another as a potential threat. That perception is reinforced by political and military commentary on both sides. The vast majority of incidents occur in areas where opposing forces are in close proximity to one another, in particular in the Nicosia area where stone-throwing, ill

discipline, threats and weapon-pointing incidents are a routine occurrence. Previous UNFICYP unmanning proposals have not been implemented owing to reservations held by both sides. UNFICYP intends to resume efforts to encourage the military of both sides to pull back from the buffer zone and unman positions in old Nicosia.

15. The United Nations military observer and liaison officer teams continued to make improvements in the exchange of information and the resolution of incidents. There is nevertheless room for improvement in the cooperation of opposing forces with the teams, which are an essential component of the new force structure. Further efforts will be made in the coming months to promote greater cooperation between the regimental commanders of the opposing forces and UNFICYP military observer and liaison officers.

## B. Demining in the buffer zone

16. Of the 48 minefields originally identified in the buffer zone, 20 have been cleared to date. Since National Guard minefields in the buffer zone had been cleared (with the exception of a small section in the Louroujina pocket), the focus during the reporting period was on Turkish military minefields in the Nicosia area, with four minefields, comprising 383,293 square metres, cleared. The Mine Action Centre activity is currently focused on the remaining minefields in the Nicosia area listed by the Turkish side for clearance. Since February, UNFICYP has been in consultation with the Turkish Forces to extend demining beyond the Nicosia area to the rest of the buffer zone. The Mine Action project is currently funded until the end of July 2006 and an agreement has been reached with the European Union to release a further €1 million to fund the programme until the end of 2006. An estimated €6 million would then be required to complete the demining project in the buffer zone.

## C. Restoration of normal conditions and humanitarian functions

17. UNFICYP continued to cooperate with its United Nations partners and the sides to facilitate projects of common benefit for Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots in the buffer zone and to promote confidence-building measures between them. The bicommunal road construction project in the buffer zone at the Astromeritis/Bostanci crossing point, funded by the European Union and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office for Project Services, was completed. UNFICYP obtained agreement for the operation of the crossing point on a 24-hour basis, commencing on 30 March 2006. The mission also facilitated other infrastructure improvements for the benefit of the civilian population in the buffer zone including the construction of the Akaki River dam west of Nicosia, road construction in the village of Mammari and the building of a warehouse in Peristerona.

18. Movement of people and trade across the buffer zone continued. UNFICYP has recorded a total of about 10.6 million crossings since the opening of the crossing points in April 2003. Approximately £C1.5 million (about $3 million) worth of goods crossed the Green Line from the north to the south and £C350,000 (approximately $700,000) worth of goods crossed from the south to the north. Only

a fraction of the crossings have had any incidents associated with them; however, three years after the first opening, there is little to no evidence of integration.

19. During the reporting period, UNFICYP facilitated 43 bicommunal events with the participation of 1,340 people. These events were held in Ledra Palace in the buffer zone, which continues to be seen as an essential neutral place to host sensitive activities involving members of the two communities. Regular monthly meetings between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot political party leaders also continued to be held at Ledra Palace under the auspices of the Embassy of Slovakia. At their invitation, my Special Representative used the occasion of the meeting held in April to brief the political party leaders on his proposals to re-engage the two sides towards a solution of the Cyprus problem.

20. UNFICYP continued discussions with the Greek Cypriot side regarding the establishment of a Turkish primary school in Limassol, which is not yet operational. Since my last report, UNFICYP has pursued the matter by exploring various options with both sides. The Turkish Cypriot Teachers' Union filed a lawsuit at the Supreme Court to guarantee Turkish Cypriots' right to an education in their mother tongue. The trial began on 5 May. The special measures to upgrade the provision of primary education in the existing Greek Cypriot school for Turkish Cypriot students described in my previous report (S/2005/743 and Corr.1, para. 20) are now in place. Late in March the Greek Cypriots offered to consult further with UNFICYP on modalities for opening a separate school; these consultations remain pending. UNFICYP continued to mediate the appointment of one additional teacher for the Greek Cypriot secondary school in Rizokarpaso.

21. In January, in the mixed village of Pyla in the buffer zone, UNFICYP assisted in bringing the children of the two communities together for a cultural event which was marked by the planting of joint "friendship trees" in their respective schools. The two schools, which are 100 metres apart, had not held any joint activities in almost 30 years. On 30 November, teachers of the two schools held a reconciliation workshop with UNFICYP support, in which pedagogical methods were also discussed.

22. UNFICYP conducted 64 humanitarian convoys, money deliveries and humanitarian visits as part of its mandated humanitarian tasks in support of the 385 Greek Cypriots and 132 Maronites living in the north. UNFICYP continued to assist Turkish Cypriots living in the south in obtaining identity documents, housing, welfare services, medical care, employment and education. On 24 April, UNFICYP facilitated the pilgrimage of 300 Greek Cypriots to Saint George's Church in Varisha in the buffer zone. In addition, UNFICYP mediated with both the Turkish Cypriots and the Greek Cypriots for cooperation on the preservation and restoration of cultural and religious sites, particularly in the north.

23. UNFICYP has observed an emerging trend of an increase in unauthorized construction of buildings for personal and commercial use and utilization of land outside the areas designated for civilian use in the buffer zone, especially in the vicinity of Pyla and other eastern areas located in sector 4. These are primarily projects carried out by Greek Cypriots. UNFICYP has initiated discussions with the relevant authorities to establish practical procedures ensuring that civilian use of the buffer zone does not compromise the security situation or hamper the ability of UNFICYP to carry out its mandated functions.

24. UNFICYP police continued to strengthen the working relationship with both sides on enhancing the effectiveness of law enforcement and maintaining law and order in and around the buffer zone. Both the north and the south report an increase in crime through the buffer zone, such as smuggling of goods, including cigarettes, explosives (fireworks) and narcotics, and human trafficking. Local police and municipal authorities have begun to show some willingness to cooperate with UNFICYP on such matters and UNFICYP police have established a coordination mechanism to research and map reported crimes occurring in and across the buffer zone. UNFICYP police have also strengthened their patrolling capability and now conduct joint patrols with UNIFCYP military in the Nicosia area. Increased interaction with the police services on the island facilitated good cooperation in dealing with public order and safety matters in the buffer zone, such as demonstrations, pilgrimages, hunter incursions and medical emergency transportation. Continued attempts to enhance information-sharing between the north and the south on criminal matters affecting both sides have met with little success. UNFICYP police continued to visit prisons in order to monitor the general conditions and fair treatment of Turkish Cypriots in the south and Greek Cypriots in the north. During the reporting period, there were 4 Greek Cypriots detained and released in the north; there are currently 27 Turkish Cypriots serving sentences in the south.

25. UNFICYP continued to coordinate activities on gender-related issues. On International Women's Day, UNFICYP hosted a bicommunal panel of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot women to discuss the subject of trafficking of women in Cyprus. A bicommunal anti-trafficking group was formed at the event and will meet periodically under United Nations auspices at Ledra Palace. In addition, UNFICYP continued to organize meetings and activities of the bicommunal Cypriot Women's Policy Group, a group of prominent women who meet periodically to discuss modalities for cooperation between the two communities.

26. My new Special Representative has emphasized the need for greater cohesiveness in the efforts of the United Nations system in Cyprus. UNFICYP has been coordinating more closely with the United Nations Development Programme, represented on the island by two projects: Action for Cooperation and Trust and Partnership for the Future. Action for Cooperation and Trust was launched in November 2005 to build networks of cooperation between the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot communities. To date, the project has contributed to several joint activities between the north and the south to promote HIV/AIDS awareness. It has also facilitated a process of consultations among veterinary and health experts from the north, the south and the international community, including the World Health Organization, which intensified when avian influenza was found in birds on the island in January. Action for Cooperation and Trust has also collaborated with UNFICYP on the issue of religious and cultural heritage sites.

27. The project, Partnership for the Future, focuses on the rehabilitation of the old city of Nicosia in cooperation with the Nicosia Master Plan and provides direct support to small businesses on both sides of the island through targeted capacity-building activities and grant schemes. Following the commitment made by the European Union in 2004 to end the isolation of the Turkish Cypriot community, the project was entrusted by the European Union with helping to reduce the socio-economic imbalance between the two communities, thereby facilitating the reconciliation process. The project does this through targeted technical assistance

initiatives covering private sector development, infrastructure development and the preservation of cultural heritage, and feasibility studies for the economic development of the northern part of Cyprus.

## IV. Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus

28. In the course of the reporting period, the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus finalized the project proposal document on the exhumation, identification and return of remains of missing persons. This marked the end of a lengthy process of discussions, analysis and consultations with all entities involved. The Committee decided to place emphasis on local participation and ownership, thereby strengthening the project's potential positive impact on the broader reconciliation process. Progress has also been made with regard to the necessary infrastructure. As agreed, an anthropological laboratory was built in the buffer zone for the examination and storage of the remains of missing persons. The Turkish Cypriot laboratory involved in DNA testing is operational. The project will be launched as soon as the necessary funding has been secured. All progress to date has been made possible by voluntary contributions.

29. Exhumations were carried out twice for capacity assessment purposes under the supervision of an international forensic expert. This occasion brought together, for the first time, the Committee's new bicommunal team of archaeologists and anthropologists, composed of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot scientists who will play a major role throughout the project. Both sides agreed to the appointment of a new third member of the Committee, Christophe Girod, who will assume his duties in the course of June 2006.

## V. Financial aspects

30. As indicated in my previous report (S/2005/743 and Corr.1), the General Assembly, in its resolution 59/284 B, appropriated for UNFICYP the amount of $46.5 million. In this regard, I am grateful for the voluntary contribution of one third of the cost of the Force, equivalent to $14.7 million, by the Government of Cyprus, and the voluntary contribution of $6.5 million by the Government of Greece Other countries and organizations might wish to do likewise, in order to reduce the portion of the cost of UNFICYP covered by assessed contributions.

31. My proposed budget for the maintenance of UNFICYP for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007, which amounts to some $45.0 million, is currently under consideration by the General Assembly, which is expected to act on it shortly.

32. As at 31 January 2006, the total outstanding assessed contributions to the special account for UNFICYP for the period from 16 June 1993 to 15 June 2006 amounted to $25.4 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations as at the same date amounted to $2,664.5 million.

33. Reimbursement of troop and contingent-owned equipment costs has been made for the periods up to 31 January 2006 and 31 December 2005, respectively, in accordance with the quarterly payment schedule.

## VI. Observations

34. Over the past six months, the ceasefire in Cyprus was maintained and the situation remained stable. On the whole, both sides extended good cooperation to UNFICYP, with some exceptions. Threats to United Nations peacekeepers by soldiers of opposing forces and disagreements with UNFICYP over the delineation of the buffer zone are indications that both sides are willing to take security risks to make gains on the ground or score points against each other. Differing opinions on the regime in the buffer zone inevitably lead to encroachments and changes to the status quo. In the absence of agreed ceasefire lines, the National Guard and the Turkish Forces/Turkish Cypriot Security Forces should respect UNFICYP operational determinations on the parameters of the buffer zone. Such a message, if delivered by the command structures of the military on both sides to their rank and file, would help to reduce misunderstandings on the ground, thereby enhancing the security of UNFICYP soldiers.

35. The increase in civilian construction in the buffer zone may be a consequence of greater confidence in the security situation. While that would constitute a positive development as an indicator of normalization of conditions, the ability of UNFICYP to ensure security will be steadily eroded by continued construction, without UNFICYP approval, of residential and commercial facilities outside areas designated for civilian use. It is hoped that both sides will extend their cooperation to UNFICYP in that regard.

36. It is clear that an early completion of the work of the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus and a solution to the issue of the missing persons would greatly contribute to reconciliation on the island. The appointment of the third member affords an opportunity to all concerned to redouble their efforts and put aside political considerations, in order to close this painful humanitarian chapter. I would urge the donor community to contribute to that effort.

37. I note with satisfaction the progress in demining efforts in the buffer zone. I appeal to the international community to lend its full support to the successful completion of the demining efforts in the Nicosia area, in the whole of the buffer zone and ultimately the whole of the island.

38. Over the past six months UNFICYP has continued to build on the advantages of the force structure adopted early in 2005 and to steadily improve coordination among its civilian, military and police components under the new concept of operations. I intend to continue to keep the operations of UNFICYP under review, with the aim of making recommendations for possible further adjustments at the appropriate time, taking into account conditions on the ground and progress at the political level.

39. I continue to believe that only the achievement of a comprehensive settlement will bring an end to the Cyprus problem. In the absence of such a comprehensive settlement, the presence of UNFICYP on the island continues to be necessary. I therefore recommend that the Security Council extend the mandate of the Force for a further period of six months, until 15 December 2006.

40. At this juncture, it is important for the parties to resume contacts and to begin to think about how to re-engage in the search for a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem. I continue to believe that there is a need to match words with

action. To that end, my Special Representative has engaged in a process aimed at encouraging renewed contacts. As already indicated, I intend to dispatch the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs to Cyprus, Greece and Turkey in the near future to assess the political situation in and around Cyprus and the prospects for a full resumption of my good offices. My Special Representative will continue to function as a high-level point of contact on the ground for the two sides.

41. In conclusion, I wish to express my thanks to Zbigniew Wlosowicz for his dedicated service over five years as Chief of Mission of UNFICYP and to Major General Figoli for his command of the Force. I also extend my appreciation to Michael Møller and Major General Rafael Barni, and to the men and women serving in UNFICYP, for the efficiency and dedication with which they have discharged the responsibilities entrusted to them by the Security Council.

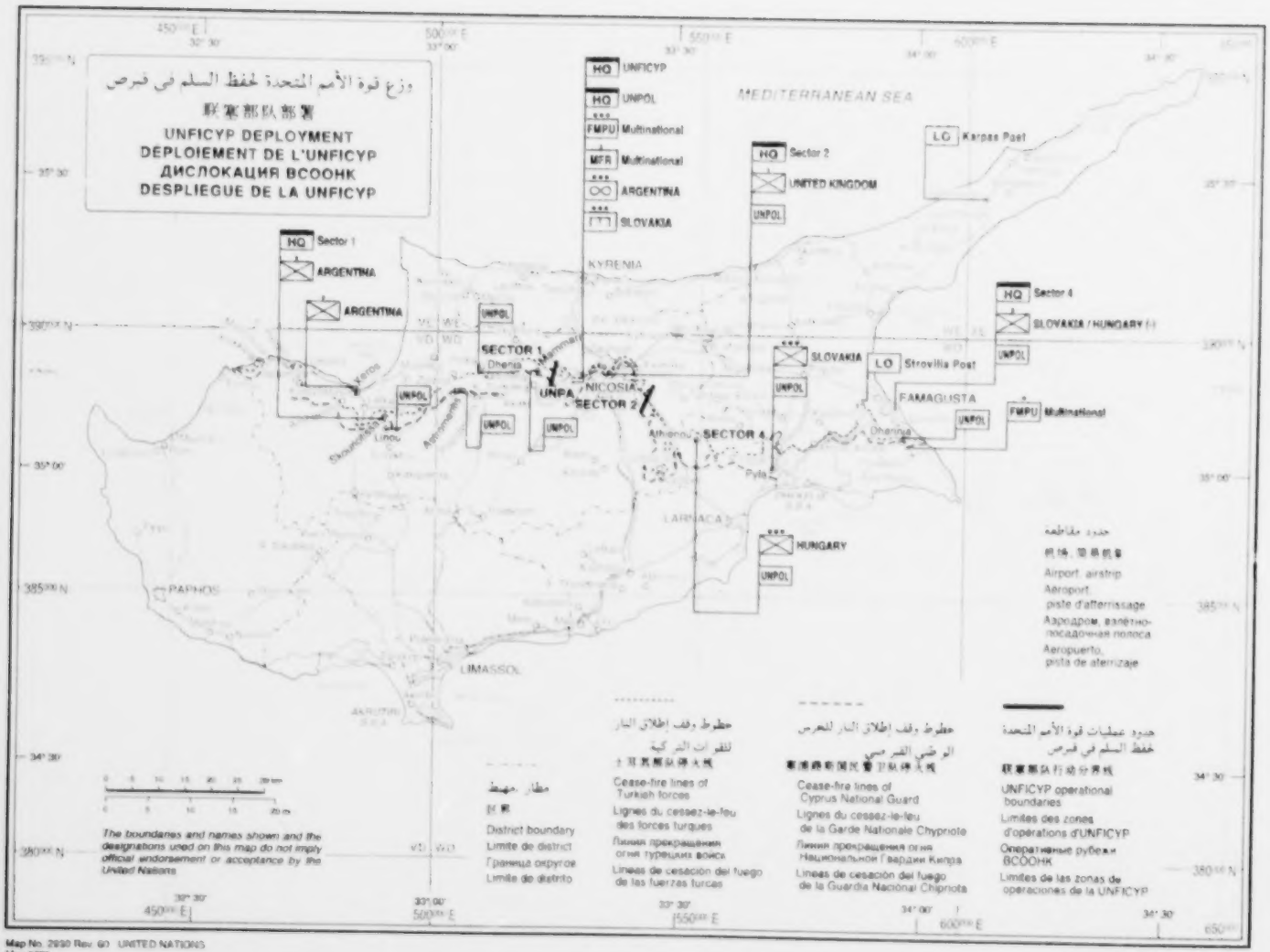
## Annex

### Countries providing military and civilian police personnel as at 15 May 2006

| *Country* | *Military personnel* | *Civilian police* |
|---|---|---|
| Argentina[a] | 295 | 4 |
| Australia | — | 15 |
| Austria | 4 | — |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | — | 4 |
| Canada | 1 | — |
| Croatia | — | 2 |
| El Salvador | — | 8 |
| Hungary | 84 | — |
| India | — | 7 |
| Italy | — | 4 |
| Ireland | — | 18 |
| Netherlands | — | 7 |
| Slovakia[b] | 200 | — |
| United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | 275 | — |
| **Total** | **859** | **69** |

[a] The Argentinean contingent includes soldiers from Brazil (1), Chile (15), Paraguay (15) and Peru (14).

[b] The Slovakian contingent includes soldiers from Croatia (4).

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# Security Council

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## Report of the Secretary-General concerning the credentials of the alternate representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the Security Council

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received a letter dated 19 May 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations stating that Ann Thompson has been appointed alternate representative of the United Kingdom on the Security Council.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, that letter constitutes adequate provisional credentials.

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# Security Council

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## Report of the Secretary-General concerning the credentials of the deputy and alternate representatives of Peru on the Security Council

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received a letter dated 22 May 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations stating that Hugo Pereyra Plasencia has been appointed deputy representative of Peru on the Security Council and Edgar Perez Alván has been appointed alternate representative.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, that letter constitutes adequate provisional credentials.

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# Security Council

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## Letter dated 23 May 2006 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter addressed to you by Mr. Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring this letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

06-36058 (E) 260506 260506

## Annex

### Letter dated 18 May 2006 from the Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English]

In accordance with Security Council resolutions 1386 (2001) and 1510 (2003), I attach a report on the operations of the International Security Assistance Force covering the period from 1 December 2005 to 30 March 2006. I would appreciate your making this report available to the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jaap **de Hoop Scheffer**

## Enclosure

[Original: English]

# Quarterly report to the Security Council on the operations of the International Security Assistance Force

### Introduction

1. In its resolution 1510 (2003) the Security Council requested the leadership of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) to provide reports on the implementation of its mandate. This is the ninth such report by NATO and it covers the period from 1 December 2005 to 30 March 2006.

2. As at 24 March 2006, ISAF had 8,121 personnel from 26 NATO countries and 467 from 10 non-NATO countries. These numbers are due to increase with the upcoming ISAF expansion to region South.

### Overall security situation

3. The threat continues to be diverse and differs significantly across the regions of Afghanistan. It is expected that the opposing militant forces will continue targeting ISAF, Operation Enduring Freedom and the Afghan National Security Forces. The trend over the past few months towards greater use of improvised explosive devices and suicide attacks is expected to continue, but caution should be applied to attributing all of this to the opposing militant forces. Also of note is the threat generated by illegal armed groups. Throughout Afghanistan, such groups operate, prompting and reacting to tribal and ethnic tensions, political friction and criminal activity. Much of the tension is a result of the narcotics trade and this will remain a significant threat to security and stability for the foreseeable future.

### Security situation in ISAF areas of operation

4. **Kabul.** Kabul remains a primary strategic and operational focal point in Afghanistan, owing to the large concentration of international agencies and multinational forces.

5. **Regions North and West.** Regions North and West will continue to be areas influenced by rival factions, power brokers and criminal groups, but there are also indications of increased Taliban and Hezb-e Islami Gulbuddin activity.

6. **Security situation outside ISAF areas of operation.** In regions South and East, the Operation Enduring Freedom currently faces a multitude of threats, including residual Taliban groups, Hezb-e Islami Gulbuddin elements, and foreign fighters. Cross-border operations and infiltrations along the border with Pakistan will continue. In these regions the opposing militant forces currently retain the capability and the intent to engage the Operation Enduring Freedom forces and the Afghan National Security Forces, in addition to provincial and local-level Government of Afghanistan officials and workers. This makes it extremely difficult for both aid and reconstruction efforts to make progress and for the Government of Afghanistan to exert its influence. As ISAF expands it is more than likely that the opposing militant forces will test ISAF resolve and seek to determine its ability to counter their attacks.

**Report on the ISAF mission**

7. ISAF has continued executing its assistance mission in the north, west, and capital regions of Afghanistan through the conduct of normal framework operations. Joint security patrols with both the Afghan National Army and, to a lesser extent, the Afghan National Police have increased, while ISAF is firmly following the principle of Afghan National Security Forces being at the forefront.

8. The ISAF response to the Afghan events surrounding the "cartoon demonstrations" that occurred early in February 2006 in Kabul, Herat, Chagcharan, Pol-e Khomri and Maimana was successful. Of note is the incident on 7 February 2006 when the personnel of the Maimana Provincial Reconstruction Team were attacked by an aggressive mob of 200 to 300 people. The crowd using small arms, grenades and improvised incendiary devices broke through the main entrance to the Team compound. The Team personnel showed great restraint and professionalism during the incident. Using warning shots, stun grenades, rubber bullets and riot control gas they managed to keep the rioters from entering the buildings. The ISAF Northern Quick Reaction Force moved to reinforce the Maimana Provincial Reconstruction Team, while the Afghan National Police eventually became more engaged, reportedly firing into the crowd. It is important to note that the Afghan National Police in Pol-e-Khomri, Herat and Kabul played a significant part in establishing calm during demonstrations.

9. Figures over the past months clearly pointed to an increased number of incidents involving improvised explosive devices throughout the country, both in absolute terms and as a proportion of all incidents. As an example, on 17 March 2006, the last vehicle of a German patrol was struck by a remotely controlled Improvised Explosive Device in Feyzabad. Initial reports indicated that the device comprised 200 to 300 grams of TNT or similar military explosive placed inside a pressure cooker. These attacks are not only targeting ISAF and Operation Enduring Freedom forces. On the same day, an Improvised Explosive Device struck against an Afghan National Police vehicle en route to Kandahar and eight police officers were reported killed.

10. The high proportion of incidents involving Improvised Explosive Devices started with the National Assembly and Provincial Council election period but continued over the winter. While the threat from Improvised Explosive Devices is theatre-wide, regions South and East have known far higher reported activity. These are regions with intricate interests between the operation militant forces and drug traffickers. Against the prospect of ISAF expansion in these two regions, the build-up phase will be critical. It is expected that ISAF will have to deal with the Improvised Explosive Device threat at a level rather similar to that which Operation Enduring Freedom forces currently experience.

11. Since 2005, the operation militant forces have resorted increasingly to suicide attacks. Several incidents were registered throughout the country during the first three months of the year. While it is still assessed that suicide attacks run counter to Afghan culture, so far about one third of suicide attackers are suspected to be Afghan nationals. The use of suicide attackers may indicate that hardliners have taken control within the Operation Militant Forces.

**Security sector reform status**

12. **Disbandment of illegal armed groups.** The disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process is transiting to the follow-on, Afghan-led process of disbandment of illegal armed groups. The disarmament and demobilization phase officially ended on 7 July 2005 while the reintegration process is scheduled to continue until 30 June 2006. ISAF continues to monitor reintegration in order to best ensure the overall success of the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration programme. Militias or individuals that did not enter and comply with that process are now referred to as illegal armed groups. The implementation of the three-phase disbandment concept started with voluntary compliance preceding the successful National Assembly and Provincial Council elections. The Government of Afghanistan is now negotiating compliance and Government officials suspected of links to illegal armed groups continue to be monitored for their involvement. The next phase will see the "top 4" commanders of illegal armed groups in each province targeted for compliance with the disbandment process.

13. **Counter-narcotics.** The international community considers the drug trade to be Afghanistan's principal problem while counter-narcotics is a complex campaign involving several agencies working in eight pillars.[1] Without undertaking any direct military action against narcotics targets, the ISAF contribution to counter-narcotics covers a wide spectrum: it continues to participate in working groups and meetings in all pillars and at all levels. The ISAF Theatre Psychological Operations element, in coordination with the Minister for Counter-Narcotics and the United Kingdom Embassy, has produced billboards, radio interviews and television spots. One billboard campaign carried a message from the Supreme Ulema of Afghanistan, stating that everything connected with the opium trade is immoral and anti-Islamic; ISAF produced approximately 2,500 posters carrying this message. ISAF headquarters produced a counter-narcotics booklet funded by the United Kingdom Embassy to aid recognition of narcotics-related material during routine operations. An information package is also being produced for the Provincial Reconstruction Team and regional area commanders that explains the alternative livelihoods programme. Long-term success depends on a combination of factors that lie outside ISAF control. The key challenges for the future will be to overcome the endemic corruption within the Government of Afghanistan and deliver accessible and viable alternative livelihoods programmes.

14. **Afghan National Army.** The capacity, capabilities and effectiveness of the Afghan National Army continue to grow but, as at March 2006, almost all units are still at a relatively low level of training. A total of 24 infantry and 16 combat support and combat service support Kandaks have been trained. Afghan National Army units are able to conduct operations up to company level, but only with support from the coalition forces and the United States embedded training teams. On the other hand, situational awareness and training support and coordination have been improved. For instance, engineer training has enhanced the effectiveness of Afghan National Army units and improved the perception of the population through the completion of some road improvement projects and upgrades of the Kabul entry points.

[1] The eight pillars are (1) building institutions, (2) information campaign, (3) alternative livelihoods, (4) interdiction and law enforcement, (5) criminal justice, (6) eradication, (7) demand reduction and (8) regional cooperation.

15. **Afghan National Police.** The effectiveness of the Afghan National Police is still assessed as low. Consequently the Afghan National Army will play a major role in the provision of security to Afghanistan until police effectiveness improves. Corruption and links with local criminal organizations, together with lack of logistic support, a high illiteracy rate and inconsistent pay still hinder the reliability of the Afghan National Police. As a consequence, the people of Afghanistan still hesitate to see the police as an access to justice or a solution to problems. The Ministry of the Interior accelerated the basic police-training programme and set the goal of having a fully trained Afghan National Police and Afghan Border Police with a combined force of 62,000 police officers deployed nationwide by the end of 2010. Now the challenge will be to raise the level of their abilities. ISAF continues to concentrate on military specialties such as search procedures, checkpoints, and weapons handling. Provincial Reconstruction Teams, where police advisers are present, will also continue to provide opportunities for training of the Afghan National Police.

16. **Judicial reform.** Judicial reform activities continue in coordination with Italy as the partner country. ISAF is striving to increase its assistance to judicial reform by encouraging its Provincial Reconstruction Teams to collect and assess data related to judicial shortfalls in order to assist the Government of Afghanistan and lead nation in the allocation of resources and development of infrastructure.

17. **ISAF air operations.** Of major importance in this mountainous landlocked country, the ability of ISAF to manoeuvre and sustain operations, airfield capabilities and flight safety shows steady improvement. Mazar-e-Sharif now has a runway-lighting system installed. Herat has a formally established Class D airspace and is subject to runway repair work to retain its full strategic airlift capability. Kabul International Airport achieved precision approach capability and is awaiting formal certification by the appropriate authorities.

**Future ISAF operations**

18. **Expansion.** The execution directive for operation plan 10302 (Rev. 1) supporting ISAF expansion will become effective on 4 May 2006. The revised operation plan provides guidance for expansion into region South, then East. Also on 4 May, the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps headquarters will take over the ISAF headquarters rotation from Italy, which is ending its tenure. Also part of ongoing expansion preparations is the NATO decision to transform the regional area coordinators into regional commanders in the north and the west; this is planned for 1 June 2006. The Kabul Multinational Brigade will also transition to regional command capital early in August.

19. **Operational mentoring and liaison teams.** The revised operation plans establish this concept of partnering between ISAF units and Afghan National Army units. Starting with NATO expansion into the south, ISAF will enhance its role in Afghan National Army training through the establishment of the operational mentoring and liaison teams throughout the ISAF area of operations. The previous strategy has been significantly broadened. ISAF will now assist with bringing the Afghan National Army to full self-sufficiency through operational mentoring, facilitating continuation training and supporting army units to increase their capability and reach. This will include the coordination of Afghan National Army operations with those of ISAF to achieve synergy, using the Operational Mentoring

and Liaison Teams as the primary vehicle by which this will be achieved. The development of the Afghan National Army will be supported by such teams at the Kandak, brigade and corps level. The teams are therefore critical to the development of the full operational capability of the Afghan National Army. The willingness of States to provide seasoned and efficient Operational Mentoring and Liaison Teams in sufficient quantity must be strongly encouraged as it is directly linked to the NATO objective of empowering Afghan security forces to take full responsibility for security throughout the country.

20. **Programme Takhim-e-Solh (reconciliation).** The Government of Afghanistan is moving ahead with its national reconciliation initiative known by its Afghan name, Programme *Takhim-e-Solh*. The terms of reference establishing the responsibilities of the Programme's commission were released on 23 January 2006. Professor Mujaddedi, former President of Afghanistan and head of the Programme, has formally invited the Commander of ISAF to participate in a two-day conference on support to the Programme from the Provincial Reconstruction Teams (Kabul, 10 and 11 April). Professor Mujaddedi has repeatedly called for a more robust engagement of NATO/ISAF in support of the Programme, especially in the light of the future expansion of ISAF to the south.

**Summary**

21. ISAF continues to make solid progress towards mission accomplishment. However, there are significant challenges that will need to be overcome in the coming months, both in terms of expansion and in meeting security threats. The enhanced coordination being achieved between ISAF and Operation Enduring Freedom, while maintaining separate operations, forms the basis for successful further expansion into regions South and East.

22. Having a new Constitution, an elected President, National Assembly and Provincial Councils in place signals the successful implementation of the Bonn Agreement. As these fledgling institutions remain fragile, the international community agreed at the London Conference on 30 and 31 January 2006 to commit itself to providing resources and support to the Government of Afghanistan for the next five years in order to provide assistance in realizing the overarching goals of a stable country with a growing economy fully integrated into the global community. These aims were endorsed at the London Conference through the signing of the Afghan Compact. A Coordinating and Monitoring Board will work to ensure implementation of the reconstruction and development aims set out in the document. The Compact's objectives are directly linked to the accomplishment of the ISAF mission and to the eventual exit of NATO.

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Security Council

Distr.: General
24 May 2006

Original: English

## Letter dated 24 May 2006 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey the attached letter dated 24 May 2006 from the Government of Timor-Leste, signed by the President, Prime Minister and Speaker of the National Parliament (see annex). The letter draws attention to the deterioration of the internal security conditions in Timor-Leste, and indicates that the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste has requested assistance from the Governments of Portugal, Australia, New Zealand and Malaysia in sending defence and security forces to the country as a matter of urgency.

It is my hope that the Security Council will give favourable consideration to this request, on the understanding that the countries concerned are ready to provide assistance.

I should be grateful if you would bring this letter urgently to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

06-36135 (E) 240506

## Annex

### Letter dated 24 May 2006 from the President, Prime Minister and Speaker of the National Parliament of Timor-Leste addressed to the Secretary-General

In view of the deterioration of the internal security conditions in Timor-Leste, and in order to establish measures of security and confidence among the populations so as to restore tranquillity throughout the national territory and promote a climate of dialogue among the various sectors of society, the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste has requested assistance from the Governments of Portugal, Australia, New Zealand and Malaysia in sending defence as well as security forces from their countries to Timor-Leste as a matter of urgency.

The request being made now to those countries is to take place in a bilateral framework taking into account the delay that a decision under the mandate of the United Nations would imply.

Nevertheless, the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, conscious of the commitments it undertook before the United Nations, hereby requests Your Excellency to take the steps you deem necessary and convenient in order to obtain international support to the assistance to be extended by the aforementioned friendly countries.

(*Signed*) Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão
President of the Republic

(*Signed*) Mari Bim Amude Alkatiri
Prime Minister

(*Signed*) Francisco Guterres "Lu-Olo"
Speaker of the National Parliament

United Nations S/2006/320

# Security Council

Distr.: General
24 May 2006

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## Letter dated 24 May 2006 from the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

You will have received advice of the unstable situation in Timor-Leste, and of the request made by the President, the Prime Minister and the Speaker of the National Parliament of Timor-Leste to Portugal, Australia, Malaysia and New Zealand to provide international assistance, in order to help re-establish security and confidence. The New Zealand Government is seriously considering this request and will be in contact with the Government of Timor-Leste today on the exact nature of their requirements. We shall also coordinate closely with Portugal, Australia and Malaysia on this request.

Given the seriousness of the situation in Timor-Leste, New Zealand joins with Australia and Portugal in requesting that the Council should give urgent attention to this matter today. Consistent with Article 54 of Chapter VIII of the Charter, we would ensure that the Security Council is informed of New Zealand's intended response.

I have written in similar terms to the Secretary-General. I would be grateful if you would circulate this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Rosemary **Banks**
Permanent Representative

06-36141 (E) 240506

United Nations S/2006/321

Security Council

Distr.: General
25 May 2006

Original: English

**Letter dated 24 May 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I am writing to inform you that Australia received a formal written request on 24 May from the three leaders of Timor-Leste: the President, the Prime Minister and the President of the National Parliament, asking us to provide police/military assistance to support its defence and security forces to re-establish and maintain public order in response to recent serious security incidents in Dili and elsewhere. I understand the Governments of Malaysia, New Zealand and Portugal have received similar requests and we are consulting with them.

As a long-term friend and supporter of Timor-Leste, including through the United Nations, Australia is giving serious consideration to the issues raised by the Government, with work being undertaken to identify how Australia might best assist. This will include sending a team of senior officials to Timor-Leste on 25 May to discuss the terms and nature of any deployment. Consistent with Article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations, Australia will keep you, as President of the Security Council, informed of our response to the request of Timor-Leste's leaders, including if and when a formal decision has been taken by Australia to assist.

For the time being, however, Australia considers there would be value in the Security Council giving urgent consideration to the serious situation which has developed in Timor-Leste, including acknowledging Timor-Leste's request for assistance and providing appropriate support to those countries which respond positively to that request. I have written in similar terms to the Secretary-General. I would be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Robert **Hill**

06-36441 (E) 260506